

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

February 22, 1978

Executive Office of the President
78-4771

ohc 78-225/a

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

Enclosed is a copy of an article from the January 31, 1978 edition of the Jerusalem Post. Since the Agency has released the study on the Israeli nuclear program would you please forward a copy of the full five page document to my office. If security measures continue to be necessary, I shall gladly follow our strict International Relations Committee procedures and keep the copy in the Committee safe in 2172 Rayburn Building.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paul Findley

Paul Findley
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Europe
and the Middle East

Enclosure

The Jerusalem Post January 31, 1978

CIA—by mistake—says Israel has atom bomb

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON.—The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has publicly released a 1974 secret study showing that Israel has a nuclear weapons program, based in part on uranium obtained through clandestine means.

The CIA said Saturday that the release of the five-page secret analysis had been a "mistake." Spokesman Herbert Hetu said: "We don't know how it happened. We're in the midst of trying to figure that part out."

He said that only two paragraphs of the lengthy study should have been released, and the rest should have remained classified. He would make no further comment.

One story making the rounds was that a bureaucratic slip-up had resulted in the release of the entire package instead of just the two paragraphs.

The document, written shortly after the May 1974 Indian A-bomb explosion, was stamped "secret, no foreign disclosure."

"We believe that Israel already has produced nuclear weapons," it said. "Our judgment is based on Israeli acquisition of large quantities of uranium, partly by clandestine means; the ambiguous nature of Israeli efforts in the field of uranium enrichment; and Israel's large investment in a costly missile system."

designed to accommodate nuclear warheads.

"We do not expect the Israelis to provide confirmation of widespread suspicions of their capability, either by nuclear testing or by threat of use, short of a grave threat to the nation's existence," the report said.

Aviezer Pazner, spokesman of the Israeli embassy here, said: "There is no proof whatsoever. I can only repeat to you that Israel is not a nuclear power and that Israel will not be the first country in the Middle East to introduce nuclear arms into the region."

White House spokesman Jody Powell said Saturday that the U.S. accepts this Israeli statement as "authoritative" and would make no further comment.

Thursday's "mistake" by the CIA was not the first time that CIA officials have forgotten that CIA estimates of Israel's nuclear weapons capability are supposed to be secret. Early in 1976, the CIA's third-ranking official, Carl Duckett, told a meeting of aerospace executives that Israel had "10 to 20" atom bombs. When the remark was later leaked to the press, then-CIA director George Bush apologized for it, asserting that the statement should never have been made.

Bush, however, did not deny the accuracy of the statement. Shortly after the incident, Duckett retired from the CIA, citing health reasons.

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Routing Slip

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